



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

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SRNS Awards \$500,000-Contracts to Medical Services for Pre-employment Exams

*Aiken and Augusta Industrial Medicine Doctors
to Aid in Processing New Hires at SRS*

AIKEN, SC, (Date) -- Two local medical practices were each awarded a contract valued at \$500,000 from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding directed to environmental cleanup projects at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS). Family Medcenters in Aiken, S.C., and the Center for Occupational Medicine in Augusta, Ga., received the contract from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS), the management and operating contractor at SRS.

Both local companies will conduct pre-employment physicals for new employees coming to work at SRS in projects funded by ARRA. It is estimated that the two practices will process 1000 new hires each during the 30-month recovery program.

To date, the ARRA contracts at SRS have been awarded to 28 small businesses and 12 large businesses for work under a \$1.6 billion Recovery Act Project at the Site.. SRNS anticipates the number of contracts under the project to potentially grow to over 130 small businesses and more than 60 large businesses during the thirty month life of the Project.

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“We look first to our local businesses in the Central Savannah River Area to supply a wide range of materials and services needed at SRS,” said SRNS President and CEO Chuck Munns. “Projects supported by Recovery Act funding are providing renewed opportunities to reach into our communities and solicit bids for products and services provided by local business that will help them grow while contributing to the SRS mission.”

The ARRA contract means new business for an Aiken medical practice that has served the community for nearly four decades.

The new employees will receive a standard pre-employment physical that in many cases will be customized by the customer. This test consists of a review of history, blood work, an electrocardiogram (EKG) and pulmonary function, and audio testing. Some examinations include drug and alcohol screening.

“We’ve been doing industrial medicine for 37 years,” said Mary Ann Findley, office manager for the Family Medcenters. “Industrial medicine was the cornerstone of our business in the beginning and we are lucky to have this new business come in.”

Family Medcenters, a familiar white bungalow with blue trim on Edgefield Street in downtown Aiken, was started as an emergency medicine practice by Drs. Steve Szymonski and Charles Hewitt in 1982. The family medicine practice opened in 1986 in its present-day office, which was a four-room house at the time. As the patient load grew, so did the office, both as additions to the original office and as satellite locations for doctors affiliated with Family Medcenters. Today, there are two Family Medcenters offices: the downtown office and one on the Southside of Aiken. The pre-employment physicals will be performed at the Edgefield street facility.

Henry Tam, MD, joined Family Medcenters in 1990 and serves today as the medical director of a staff of 28, including two nurse practitioners and two physical assistants.

“We will do the best we can to check them out and make sure everything is all right,” Dr. Tam said. “We have done a lot of industrial physicals before. We are well-equipped to do this.”

“We’ll be doing a lot of physicals for the next 1 ½ years” Ms. Findley added. Although this is the practice’s first federal contract, the type of work is not new for Ms. Findley and her staff. They provide similar services to Aiken County and to Wackenhut Services, Inc., at SRS. She said she expects her office to be doing up to 13 physicals a day as part of the contract awarded on May 21

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It is a similar situation for Terrie Bradford, clinic manager for the Center for Occupational Medicine on Tobacco Road in Augusta. She was awarded the contract on June 10. "I was looking forward to doing the work for them. I'm excited," she said.

Unlike Family Medcenters, the Center for Occupational Medicine performs occupational examinations only.

"That's all we do. We don't do colds and sinuses," she said. "It's all OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Act) –related programs we manage for many companies."

Fathy Saad, MD and his replacement, Jay Eldurkar, MD, when he leaves in August, are both board-certified in occupational medicine. The practice was started in 2004 and employs seven people in addition to a small staff who man the mobile clinic. "We're still a growing clinic," Ms. Bradford said. "Part of our business is to go to work sites."

The Center for Occupational Medicine performs physical examinations as they pertain to the specifics of a job. Bradford added that a number of the requests coming from the Savannah River Site would have specific requirements. "They'll tell me, 'This is such-and-such worker, and they need this done,'" she said.

"It's good to see this money coming into our area. Not only for my clinic, but to benefit the area."

For additional information on the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management and the Savannah River Site, can be found at <http://www.em.doe.gov> or <http://www.srs.gov>. For more information about the SRS Recovery Act Project, please visit www.srs.gov/recovery.

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Note to editor: "Fathy" is correct spelling of Dr. Saad's first name.



Michelle Barrios (left), industrial coordinator, and Mary Ann Findley (right), clinic manager, are prepared for the estimated 1000 Savannah River Site new hires coming through Family Medcenters in Aiken. The practice recently was awarded a \$500,000 contract through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.



Henry Tam, MD, (left), medical director of Family Medcenters in Aiken, and Michelle Barrios (right), industrial coordinator, will provide testing and baseline bloodwork to the estimated 1000 Savannah River Site new hires. The practice has been in Aiken for 37 years.